

Lower Health Care Costs and Ensure Broader Coverage: Affordable and quality health care is key to strong economic growth. We are bringing our health care system into the 21st century with information technology, which will save billions of dollars, and are taking key steps to ensure broader coverage in this recession.

- Modernizing Health Care System to Lower Costs and Save Lives
 - Provides \$19 billion to accelerate adoption of Health Information Technology (HIT) systems by doctors and hospitals, in order to modernize the health care system, save billions of dollars, reduce medical errors and improve quality.
 - Strengthens Federal privacy and security law to protect personally identifiable health information from misuse and abuse.
 - Creates hundreds of thousands of jobs – many in high-tech sectors – by promoting the adoption of HIT.
 - CBO estimates this will reduce health costs for the federal government by \$12 billion over 10 years.
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- Protecting Health Care Coverage for Millions through Medicaid
 - Protects health care coverage for millions of Americans during this recession, by providing an estimated \$87 billion over the next two years in additional federal matching funds to help states maintain their Medicaid programs in the face of massive state budget shortfalls.
 - Helps states avoid having families lose Medicaid coverage and scaling back the health care services provided during these difficult times.
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- Providing Health Insurance for Unemployed Workers
 - Currently, laid-off workers, under the COBRA program, can buy into their former employer's health insurance. But the premiums are often prohibitively expensive. In order to help people maintain their health coverage, the bill provides a 65% subsidy for COBRA premiums for up to 9 months for workers affected by the recession.
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- Investing in Prevention & Comparative Effectiveness Research
 - Provides \$1 billion for a new Prevention and Wellness Fund. Studies have shown that investing in prevention can lower overall health care costs by billions of dollars.
 - Provides \$1.1 billion for comparative effectiveness research, to evaluate the relative effectiveness of different health care services and treatment options. This research will improve the quality of care.